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INFORMATION REPORT

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Description

1. [redacted] in Soviet Army unit T/O&E's, there were a certain number of personnel slots that could be filled by "sverkhsrochniki" (extended tour enlisted personnel). The "sverkhsrochniki" in [redacted] the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn., were men who had completed their obligatory three-year tour of service and had voluntarily requested to remain on active duty. (Note: These slots were indicated in the T/O&E by a special military number (VUS - Vovenaya Uchetnaya Spetsyal'nost'). The only such number [redacted] was VUS 146 carried by the clerk of the Ration and Forage Warehouse (PFS - Produkto-Furazhnyy Sklad) [redacted]. This slot was authorized to carry a clerk as PFC (yefreytor) in a "sverkhsrochnik" status.)

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2. "Sverkhsrochniki" had to occupy T/O&E slots that had been specifically assigned to carry such personnel. For example [redacted] all positions for mechanic-driver instructors of the Tk. Supply Co, all company first sergeants, certain battalion staff clerks, training-aid clerks (laboranty), and some other unknown slots were authorized to be filled by "sverkhsrochniki".

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3. Actually there were only 12 "sverkhsrochniki" [redacted]. These were:

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First sergeant of Tk. Supply Co. - master sergeant (starshina).
Four mechanic-driver instructors of Tk. Supply Co. - master sergeants.
Two mechanic-driver instructors of Tk. Supply Co. - senior sergeants.
Mechanic-inspector (Mekhanik-Regulirovshchik) of Tk. Supply Co. - master sergeant.
Chief of POL for battalion (in Tk. Supply Co) - senior sergeant (starshyy serzhant).

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Chief of battalion EM mess (on battalion staff) - master sergeant.
 Chief of clothing and equipment warehouse (OVS) (on battalion staff) - sergeant (serzhant).
 First Sergeant of 1st Tng.Co - master sergeant.

Insignia

4. "Sverkhsrochniki" signed up for additional service in two-year increments and for each increment, upon signing, they wore on their left sleeve a gold chevron in the form of a "v". These chevrons were normally made by the "sverkhsrochniki" from ribbon used to indicate the rank of sergeant on Soviet army shoulder boards.
5. The longest term of service any of the 12 "sverkhsrochniki" had in [] unit was less than five years, including three years of compulsory service. Thus, none had completed his first term of service as a "sverkhsrochnik" [] While in Vienna [] other "sverkhsrochniki" who wore more than one stripe. One was an elderly man who wore World War II medals and had a beard. He was a master sergeant and had four narrow "sverkhsrochnik" chevrons on his left sleeve.

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Changes Affecting "Sverkhsrochniki" in Austria

6. a. 1952-1953

[] from November 1951 to June 1954 there were two changes that affected "sverkhsrochniki" [] both in pay and number of authorized slots.

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- (1) The first change occurred in November 1952 upon the receipt of an order from the Ministry of Defense. Its purpose was to increase the prestige of Soviet army sergeants. The effective date of the order was 1 January 1953. The overall number of sergeants authorized by T/O&E [] was decreased and the slots affected were converted to slots for PFC's. Several of the battalion "sverkhsrochniki" thus found themselves occupying PFC positions. Of those "sverkhsrochniki" affected one was a master sergeant and another a senior sergeant.

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[] Two men requested, and were granted, permission to be demobilized. One was a master sergeant (name unknown) who was the chief of the battalion PFS (Produkto-Furazhnoye Snabzheniye -- food and forage) warehouse; the other was a senior sergeant, Vasily FILATOV, senior armorer of the Tk. Supply Co. The remaining soldiers affected took a reduction in pay and grade; however, all were later transferred within the battalion to positions authorizing a higher grade.

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b. 1954

The second change affecting "sverkhsrochniki" was an order from the Minister of Defense in May 1954 which affected the entire T/O&E of the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn. ² The order increased the over-all number of personnel slots which could be filled by "sverkhsrochniki" but provided that the new slots could not be occupied by personnel over the grade of PFC.

Pay and Privileges

7. [redacted] pay scale of "sverkhsrochnik" 25X1
[redacted] as follows: 25X1

Master sergeant - 1,000 Austrian schillings per month.
Senior sergeant - 800 Austrian schillings per month.
Sergeant - 650 Austrian schillings per month.
Private first class - 500 Austrian schillings per month.

8. [redacted] 25X1

9. Upon becoming a "sverkhsrochnik", a man was immediately issued a new overcoat, a new cotton uniform, and a new broadcloth uniform with a service hat (furazhka). As personal identification document he was given a personal identification certificate (Udostovereniye Lichnosti) in lieu of the service book (Sluzhebnyaya Knizhka) carried by all other enlisted personnel. He also received an account book (Razchetnaya Knizhka) as did officers and drew his money directly from the unit finance officer. He was permitted to eat in the officers' mess upon payment of an additional (unknown) amount of money. [redacted] "sverkhsrochniki" preferred to eat 25X1
in the enlisted mess to avoid paying the additional amount; they ate in a separate room reserved especially for them.
10. "Sverkhsrochniki" had various other privileges not authorized for obligatory service enlisted personnel. [redacted] 25X1

this category. One such privilege was the alleged permission granted to "sverkhsrochniki," as to officers, to bring their dependents to Austria. [redacted] 25X1 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

11. The same order also granted officers and "sverkhsrochniki" the right to wear civilian clothing off-post after duty hours. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

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12. Another privilege granted to "sverkhsrochniki" as a result of the fall 1953 order was the right to drink intoxicants off-duty. This right was denied to all conscripted EM regardless of grade. While "sverkhsrochniki" were still not permitted to bring alcoholic beverages on post, this was a common practice [redacted] as long as the drinking was not too flagrant and the individual was able to perform his duty, no action was taken to curtail this violation. 25X1 25X1
13. "Sverkhsrochniki" had other privileges that [redacted] had been in existence much longer. In the USSR they were permitted to live off-post, (as were officers). Many "sverkhsrochniki" in the USSR lived off-post with women out of wedlock. This was a common practice and many men changed "wives" whenever they changed stations. Those "sverkhsrochniki" who did not choose to live off-post in the USSR were assigned private rooms in barracks. In Austria they were not permitted to live off-post but all lived in private rooms in garrison. "Sverkhsrochniki" had keys to the doors of their rooms and could lock themselves in when they wished to drink on post. 25X1
14. "Sverkhsrochniki" who lived in private rooms on post were permitted to arrange these rooms and furnish them at their own expense. Most of them had rugs on the floor, a dresser with a linen scarf, and a wardrobe in which to hang their clothes.
15. [redacted] "sverkhsrochniki" were promised upon extending their service that they would work an eight-hour day, daily except Sunday. In practice this was not true [redacted] Most of the "sverkhsrochniki" had assignments that necessitated their presence evenings and sometimes they were required to work around the clock. The company first sergeants, for example, were responsible for their men after duty hours and often had to remain to issue uniforms and equipment. Those "sverkhsrochniki" who were mechanic-driver instructors conducted classes on their tanks and SP guns during the normal work day and performed maintenance at night. This additional work was often used by "sverkhsrochniki" as an excuse for absences of up to one day. They were able to say that on the previous day they had worked an extra eight hours and this was accepted by officers as sufficient reason for a day's absence. 25X1 25X1
16. [redacted] after the implementation of the order from the Minister of Defense in the fall of 1953, "sverkhsrochniki" and officers in theory were to be permitted to visit Austrian civilian communities. He did not know what the practice actually was, but stated that "sverkhsrochniki" often went to Mannersdorf and Vienna to mail packages to the USSR, either singly or in groups. He believed that "sverkhsrochniki" often went without permission to the town of Goetzendorf (N 18-01, E 16-35) to frequent drinking establishments. This practice was not condemned by the officers simply because the men involved were "sverkhsrochniki". 25X1

Attitudes Toward "Sverkhsrochniki"

17. Most of the EM looked upon "sverkhsrochniki" as rather strange creatures. The average soldier in the Soviet army was unable to understand how anyone could desire to prolong his military career in spite of various advantages. Further, most of the "sverkhsrochniki" were considered greedy by the other men for eating in the EM mess where food was "terrible" when they could have eaten much better food in the officers' mess by paying a small sum of money.

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18. In general, "sverkhsrochniki" were not respected and the obligatory tour enlisted men were envious of the privileges granted to "sverkhsrochniki". They were called "makaroniki", meaning they preferred to remain in the army and eat macaroni, (which comprised a large proportion of the service diet) instead of returning to the USSR. Another term was "krupayed" meaning "mush eater" (mush or cereal was another staple). It was said of them by the other soldiers, "U nikh net rodiny" (they do not have a motherland).
19. "Sverkhsrochniki" always received preferential treatment from officers. They were not subordinate to the company first sergeants and always worked under the supervision of an officer. Most of the slots occupied by "sverkhsrochniki," were key positions and therefore their relations with officers were closer and better than those of obligatory tour EM. They were encouraged by the political officers to remain aloof from other EM and carried this out to the point that they came and went to work by themselves. [redacted] this non-fraternization was encouraged mainly because the conscripted enlisted personnel were not permitted to drink and this one item created a wide gulf in the association between "sverkhsrochniki" and conscriptees.
20. "Sverkhsrochniki" did not often get into trouble because the rules that applied to other EM did not apply to them. However, [redacted] one incident when a "sverkhsrochnik" was confined for drinking. "Sverkhsrochniki" were not normally punished for drinking but in this case a M/Sgt. CHINTSOV was found completely unconscious from drink when the battalion commander wanted him for some reason. For this, he was confined in the 13th Gds. Mecz. Div. guardhouse at Liesing (N 48-08, E 16-18) for 10 days. He received no reduction in pay or any other punishment aside from confinement.

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Demobilization

21. [redacted] there were five "sverkhsrochniki" demobilized. Two of them were the men described in paragraph 6a (1). Two others were demobilized in the summer of 1953 upon completion of their two-year commitment as "sverkhsrochniki". These were a M/Sgt. OVRICH who was the first sergeant of the 2d Tng. Co., and a M/Sgt. Mikhail CHENTSOV who was the first sergeant of the Tk. Supply Co.
22. The fifth "sverkhsrochnik" who was demobilized was a soldier named Peter CHUPRYNIN who came from the 44th Gds. Mecz. Regt. upon completion of his three year obligatory tour because there was no "sverkhsrochnik" slot open in his old unit. He arrived in the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn, in the fall of 1953. At that time he was a senior sergeant, had been a tank commander, and was considered an outstanding soldier who had had several articles written about him in papers and magazines. Upon his arrival in the battalion, he was promoted to master sergeant and began immediately borrowing money from any one who would lend it to him. In early March 1954, he went on a 45-day leave to the USSR; in June 1954 the unit received word from the Kharkov voyenkomat that he would be demobilized and that his services records were to be closed. [redacted]
- [redacted] CHUPRYNIN had married his (BUNDARENKO'S) sister while on leave and that she forced him to leave after a week because of

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his excessive drinking. CHUPRYNIN was then picked up by the komendatura in Stalingrad where he had gone to visit a former wife who also refused to have anything to do with him. When the komendatura picked him up, he was very drunk, had forty 7.62-mm pistol rounds in his pocket, and had lost his papers. He was then demobilized as punishment by the voyenkomat of his native city Kharkov.

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